

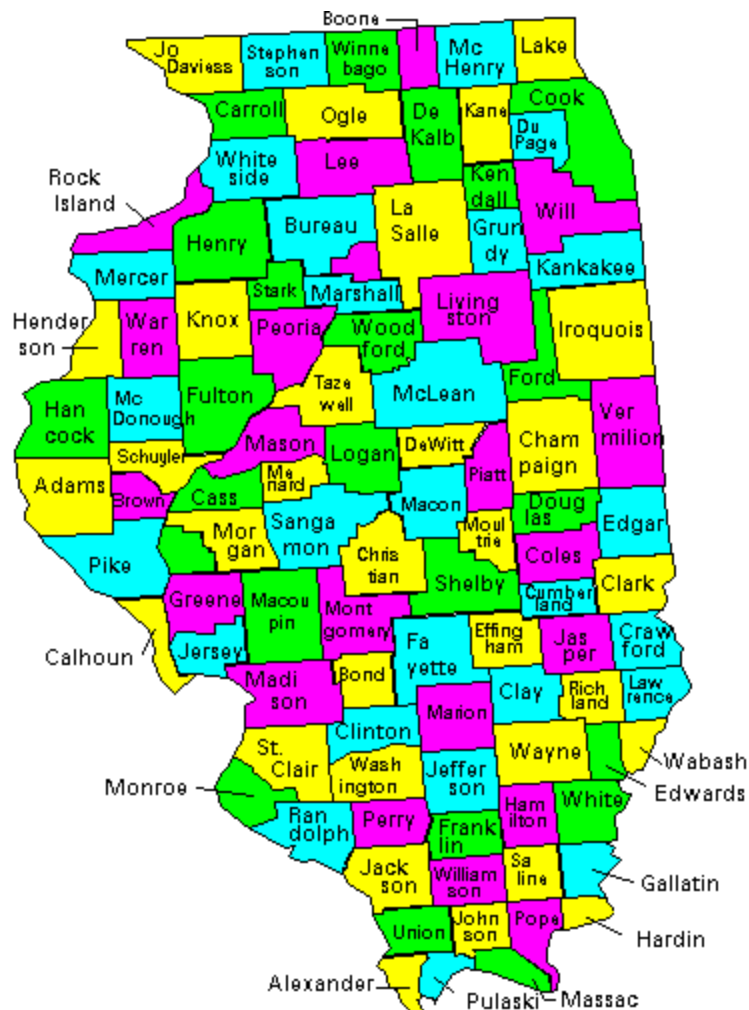
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Chicago, Illinois

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Chicago

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 2,783,726 (1990 census)
- Gender: 48% Male, 52% Female
- Race/Ethnicity: 45.4% White; 39.1% Black; .3% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 3.7% Asian or Pacific Islander; 19.6% Hispanic Origin
- Chicago is located in Cook County, Illinois

Politics²

- Mayor: Richard M. Daley
- Superintendent of Police: Terry G. Hillard
- Director, Office of Substance Abuse Policy: Susan Weed
- Chicago HIDTA Director: Kurt Schmid

Programs/Initiatives

- Designated in 1995, the Chicago HIDTA addresses the disruption and dismantling of major illicit drug trafficking organizations as well as the accompanying violence, crime and socio-economic decay associated with illegal drugs. The Chicago effort focuses on improving information and intelligence-sharing, coordination, interdiction and disruption of the drug trade affecting Cook County. The Chicago HIDTA includes Cook county, the City of Chicago and 102 suburban municipalities with a total population of approximately 5.2 million.³
- The Office of National Drug Control Policy awarded Northwest Austin Council in Chicago, IL \$100,000 for drug prevention under the FY 1999 Drug Free Community Support Program.⁴
- The Cook County Juvenile Court Drug Program was implemented October 21, 1996 in the Austin and Lawndale communities of Chicago, IL, which comprise the 11th and 15th police districts. It uses the deferred prosecution model of drug court. The projected average length of stay in the program is nine months for each minor. Program benchmarks will be established to monitor the minor's progress with clinical interventions. Incentives will also be established to recognize the minor's progress and offer incremental step-down treatment and supervision.

The Program Objectives are:

- The development of a network of community-based drug treatment agencies for minors who have exhibited delinquent behavior related to the abuse of illegal substances.
- The implementation a continuum of intervention strategies for minors and their families that address both potential risk to the community and the individual treatment needs.
- The identification specific outcome behaviors for participating minors and evaluate program impact on same (i.e., school attendance, establish a percentage

- for recidivism on related charges while in the program, establish a percentage of minors who will successfully complete the drug program, establish a percentage for recidivism of participating minors six months upon completion of the program.)
- The implementation of expedited case processing and drug intervention strategies for minors participating in the grant program.
 - The development of appropriate screening/assessment instruments with the enrollment and participation of approximately 300 minors during the grant period. Supplement existing County/Circuit Court drug intervention programs.
- Unique Aspects of Drug Court:

- The *Approved Provider Network* consists of a collaboration of indigenous, licensed clinical agencies, as well as specialized services that were not already available in the Austin community, i.e., short-term residential treatment. It provides various appropriate levels of outpatient treatment and counseling and related family interventions and services.
- The *Management Information System* is a micro-based computer system (LAN - Local Area Network) that has the capacity to collect and transfer required data elements received from the referral source, assessment agencies, treatment providers, and court personnel servicing the Juvenile Court Drug Program.
- *Community Outreach*. A strong collaborative community-based network of service providers and community organizations supports this new program. The Chicago Board of Education has approved the utilization of the Austin High School as the hub for social and program activities related to this grant. The initiative has also worked with the Chicago Police Department-Youth Division to solicit their support and access information relative to the minors participating in this program.⁵

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 1998 there were 10,397 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Illinois.⁶

Arrests in Chicago, 1998

Offense	Total
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	754
Forcible rape	504
Robbery	2,791
Aggravated assault	6,553
Burglary	3,760
Larceny-theft	28,323
Motor vehicle theft	8,931
Arson	163
Drug abuse violations	58,583
Opium/Cocaine	12,617
Marijuana	13,871
Synthetic Narcotics	1,298
Other Narcotic Offenses	30,797

- In Chicago, during 1998, 74.2% of male arrestees and 71.5% of females tested positive for drugs. Also during 1998, 18.3% of male arrestees and 27.0% of females tested positive for opiates.⁷

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drug Use, Chicago 1998

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		PCP		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	34.6%	17.6%	39.5%	14.7%	2.3%	0.0%	63.5%	32.4%
Property	56.9	61.5	36.6	11.5	1.9	3.8	80.5	73.1
Drug	55.5	69.4	50.4	20.4	2.2	0.0	90.9	85.7
Prostitution	33.3	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0
Other	33.1	61.9	39.7	42.9	5.9	0.0	62.5	90.5
Total	44.9	55.5	41.5	19.7	2.6	0.7	74.2	71.5

Drugs⁸

➤ Cocaine/Crack

Crack cocaine dominates inner city street sales in the Chicago area. In 1998 one kilogram of cocaine sold for between \$18,000-\$24,000 in Chicago. Smaller amounts of cocaine sell for \$40-\$50 for a gram and \$90-\$150 for a 1/8 of an ounce. The sale price of crack cocaine in the Chicago area ranges between \$5-\$20 depending on the size of the rocks.

Besides alcohol, cocaine is the most frequent reason for clients to enter a treatment program in the Chicago area. The number of people admitted for cocaine treatment rose 3% from 32,289 in 1997 to 33,382 in 1998.

➤ Heroin

The most popular form of heroin in the Chicago area is white heroin, although brown and black tar heroin can be obtained. Heroin is sold in \$10 and \$20 units at the street level. Larger amounts of heroin in Chicago sell for \$160-\$175 for a gram and

\$36,000-\$40,000 for a kilogram of China white. The average purity of heroin in Chicago was 31% in 1997. There were 13,404 admissions for heroin in FY 1997 a 2% increase over the number of admissions in FY 1996.

➤ **Marijuana**

Marijuana use in Chicago is on the rise and marijuana is available in an array of prices and varieties. Marijuana ranges in price from \$1,000-\$2,500 for a pound to \$100-\$200 for an ounce. On the street in Chicago marijuana is generally sold in \$5, \$10, and \$20 bags. The number of marijuana treatment admissions in Chicago rose from 12 percent of all admissions in FY 1996 to 17 percent of admissions in FY 1997.

Juveniles

- A survey of Chicago high school students indicated that 44.7% of them had tried marijuana at least once in their lifetimes.⁹

Percent of Chicago High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1997

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use (1)	40.8%	49.6%	44.7%
Current Marijuana Use (2)	20.6	27.1	23.6
Lifetime Cocaine Use	3.4	7.2	5.1
Current Cocaine Use	2.1	4.6	3.2
Lifetime "Crack" or "Freebase" Use	2.6	3.5	3.0
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	3.0	5.5	4.2
Lifetime Injected Illegal Drug Use (3)	1.4	3.5	2.4
Lifetime Use of Other Illegal Drugs (4)	4.5	10.0	7.0
Lifetime Use of Inhalants	11.9	14.0	13.0

1. Lifetime Use = ever tried drug in life

2. Current Use = used drug one or more times in last 30 days before survey

3. Used a needle to inject drugs

4. Other Drugs Include = LSD, PCP, MDMA, Heroin, Methamphetamine, and Mushrooms.

Trafficking and Seizures

- The Chicago HIDTA Threat Abstract ... "The Chicago HIDTA includes Cook county, the City of Chicago and 102 suburban municipalities with a total population of approximately 5.2 million. The Chicago area has been a major market for drug use and manufacturing. It is also a major distribution center for illegal drugs destined for other cities. Chicago's diverse ethnic and cultural composition includes many legal and illegal immigrants from drug source countries. Cocaine trafficking and money laundering are the most serious threats to the community. Heroin and club drugs are increasing in demand and purity. Street gangs continue to control the supply and distribution of principal illicit drugs. Drug amounts confiscated in 1996 included more than 7,300 lbs. of cocaine and 62,000 lbs. of marijuana. Increases were greatest (at over 7%) in 1996 for violations of the Drug Paraphernalia Act and the Cannabis Control Act. Major criminal organizations include the Gangster Disciples, estimated to have a total membership of 20,000 in the region. Other groups include the Latin Kings, Vice Lords, Nigerian and Jamaican organizations. Other domestic and

international organizations have also been identified as being involved in smuggling of illicit drugs.¹⁰

Consequences of Use

- There were 26,891 drug-related emergency room episodes in Chicago during 1997.¹¹

Drug-Related Emergency Room Episodes and Mentions in Chicago, 1996-1998*

	1996	1997	1998
Drug Episodes	23,524	26,891	13,062
Drug Mentions	42,439	50,529	24,050
Cocaine	12,688	14,373	7,057
Heroin/Morphine	6,282	8,633	4,648
Marijuana/Hashish	3,533	4,424	2,580
Methamphetamine	28	29	11

*Preliminary data for January through June 1998 only

- The number of drug-related deaths have decreased in Chicago, Illinois from 608 in 1995 to 551 in 1996.¹²

Drug Abuse Deaths in Chicago, 1995-96

Selected Characteristics	1995	1996
Total drug-abuse episodes	608	551
GENDER		
Male	450	412
Female	156	138
RACE/ETHNICITY		
White	298	251
Black	286	266
Hispanic	22	30
Other	2	3
AGE		
6-17	5	5
18-25	62	34
26-34	135	140
35 and up	406	371
SELECTED DRUGS		
Alcohol-in-comb	265	238
Cocaine	318	321
Heroin/Morphine	300	224
Marijuana/Hashish	13	11
Methadone	12	17
Methamphetamine	1	1
PCP	10	3
Total Drug Mentions	1,252	1,116

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Illinois Web site: <http://www.state.il.us/>

³ ONDCP Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Drug Court Program Office Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/dcpo.htm>

⁶ Chicago Police Department, *Chicago Police Department Annual Report 1998*, 1999

⁷ National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, April 1999

⁸ Community Epidemiology Working Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse Volume II: Proceedings June 1998*, January 1999

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance - United States, 1997*, August 1998

¹⁰ ONDCP Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/chic-th.html>

¹¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mid-Year 1998 Preliminary Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network*, July 1999

¹² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1996*, July 1998

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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